

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07124 101224Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----069454 101225Z /45

O P 101147Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4011  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7124

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: IR SO US  
SUBJ: POSSIBLE IRANIAN AID TO SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 186672 (NOTAL, (B) TEHRAN 7063

I WAS SUMMONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY URGENTLY ON MORNING  
AUG 10 BY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AZIMA TO DISCUSS  
ARMS TO SOMALIA. AZIMA SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY GENERAL  
AZHARI OF WASHINGTON RESPONSE (REF A) TO GOI REQUEST TO SHIP  
US-ORIGIN CARBINES TO SOMALIA.

2. AZIMA SAID IRANIANS WERE TOTALLY CONFUSED BY US POSITION  
AND NOW FOUND THEMSELVES IN EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING POSITION.  
AS THEY HAD CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO US EARLIER, THE SOMALIS  
HAD INSISTED THAT THE ARMS AND THE MILITARY MISSION WOULD  
HAVE TO ARRIVE IN SOMALIA TOGETHER. ACCORDINGLY, GOI HAD  
PREPARED TWO C-130 AIRCRAFT AUGUST 9, ONE TO CARRY 5-MAN  
MILITARY MISSION AND SECOND TO CARRY THE CARBINES.

3. MILITARY MISSION AIRDRAFT DEPARTED AUGUST 9 FOR  
SOMALIA AND WAS SCHEDULED ARRIVE AT MOGADISCIO JUST ABOUT  
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AT THE MOMENT WE WER TALKING. BECAUSE OF US BLOCK ON  
TRANSFER OF ARMS, SECOND C-130 WAS STILL SITTING AT  
MEHRABAD AIRPORT, WITH ITS CARGO ALREADY LOADED, BUT ITS  
CREW ON STANDBY.

4. AZIMA FELT THERE WAS GOOD POSSIBILITY IRAN WOULD BE  
ACCUSED OF BAD FAITH BY SOMALIS, SINCE THE MISSION ARRIVED

WITHOUT THE WEAPONS. IN ANY EVENT, HE FELT THE MISSION WOULD GET NOWHERE IN SOMALIA UNTIL WEAPONS ARRIVED. HE THEREFORE URGED THAT WASHINGTON, EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER STUDIES FOR MORE EXTENSIVE SUPPLY PROGRAM, GIVE IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE FOR CURRENT SHIPMENT.

5. I TOLD AZIMA THAT IT WAS MY ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING THAT GOI INTENDED SHIP RIFLES MADE IN IRAN. I WAS THEREFORE SURPRISED THAT SHIPMENT NOW PREPARED TO FLY WAS OF US ORIGIN. AZIMA SAID THAT GENERAL AZHARI WAS INSTRUCTED TO SHIP ONLY WEAPONS CONSIDERED SURPLUS TO IRANIAN NEEDS. ALL IRANIAN MANUFACTURED RIFLES (OF GERMAN DESIGN) ARE BEING ISSUED AS PART-TIME WEAPONS. THE SURPLUS ARMS BEING REPLACED ARE THE M-1 CARBINES OF US ORIGIN. HENCE, THESE ARE THE WEAPONS CHOSEN FOR EXPORT TO SOMALIA.

6. I ASKED AZIMA FOR EXACT NUMBER OF RIFLES INVOLVED. HE DID NOT HAVE EXACT FIGURE, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS ONE C-130 LOAD. HE SAID HE WOULD CALL ME LATER WITH TOTAL NUMBERS PACKED TO GO. IN MEANTIME HE ASKED ME NOT TO DELAY MESSAGE SEEKING WASHINGTON CLEARANCE.

7. WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER MY RETURN FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, I WAS SET UPON BY MY VOLATILE LITTLE SOMALI COLLEAGUE, WHO HAD JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MOGADISCIO, COMPLAINING THAT THE MILITARY MISSION HAD ARRIVED THERE "SENZA ROBA" AND HAD  
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EXPLAINED THAT THE RIFLES WERE AWAITING US CLEARANCE. HE LIKEWISE URGED IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON ACTION TO RELEASE THE RIFLES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE IT WAS THE US WHICH GOT THE IRANIANS INVOLVED THIS WHOLE EXERCISE (AS WE ARE CURRENTLY DOING WITH RESPECT TO CHAD), I SEE NO REPEAT NO ALTERNATIVE TO AN IMMEDIATE RELEASE PERMITTING THEM TO SEND THIS LOAD OF RIFLES TO SOMALIA. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SUCH A SMALL DELIVERY WILL HAVE MINISCULE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE MILITARY BALANCE, WHETHER IN OGADEN OR ELSEWHERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD HAVE A TRULY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON THE POLITICAL SCALES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING WEIGHED IN MOGADISCIO WHILE OUR WASHINGTON DELIBERATIONS CONTINUE.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 1640034  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE IRANIAN AID TO SOMALIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, IR, SO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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